

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

OF

EAST MOLESEY.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR

1894.

EAST MOLESEY :

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

EAST MOLESEY,

SURREY,

January, 1895.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
EAST MOLESEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my Annual Report for the year 1894. The Urban Sanitary District of East Molesey has an area of 730 acres: its population at the last census was 4,666, and is estimated to have been 5,111 at the middle of last year.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths registered during the past year is 50, comprising 32 males and 18 females. This number bears very favourable comparison with the numbers for the past few years, as will be seen from the subjoined table.

No. of Deaths in 1893	...	66
„ „ „ 1892	...	62
„ „ „ 1891	...	58
„ „ „ 1890	...	63

Eleven deaths occurred in persons over 65 years of age ; while 12 were those of infants under one year, the Infant Mortality being at the rate of 103 deaths per thousand births. Diseases of the respiratory organs and Phthisis were again the most fatal, and in two cases Influenza is registered as being the primary disease. There were 3 inquests, the causes of death being respectively :—fracture of base of skull (1), suicidal wounds of throat (1), and drowning (1). No death has been registered from any of the seven principal zymotic diseases, viz. : Small-pox, Scarlatina, Diphtheria, Typhoid, Measles, Whooping Cough and Diarrhœa. In 1893 the zymotic death-rate was $\cdot 6$ per 1,000, which was exceedingly low, that for the county being 1.73 during the same period. In estimating the death-rate, two deaths which occurred at the Cottage Hospital in persons residing at Teddington and Hampton respectively, have been deducted.

The death-rate is therefore 9.39 per 1,000.

BIRTHS.

There were 116 births registered during the year, 65 being males and 51 females.

No. of Births in 1893	...	131
„ „ „ 1892	...	98
„ „ „ 1891	...	127
„ „ „ 1890	...	115

The birth-rate for 1894 may therefore be estimated at 22.69 per 1,000, which gives an increase at the rate of 13.3 per 1,000 of births over deaths.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

I had occasion to comment, in my last Annual Report, on the necessity of a proper Hospital for Infectious Diseases in the district, and a com-

mittee was formed to discuss this question. This Committee has, I believe, been defunct since the Local Board ceased to exist; but I trust that its existence has not been altogether lost sight of, for I am still strongly of opinion that such a hospital is a matter of necessity, especially as, I understand, our district is to be shortly enlarged.

In spite of the absence of an Isolation Hospital, there has been exceedingly little Infectious Disease in the district during the year. In all, only 22 cases were notified, including 6 from Diarrhœa. I believe this paucity of numbers to be due, in great measure, to the vigilance of the Health Officers, who always insisted on immediate isolation of infectious cases, so far as was possible, and in the provision, for the poorer classes, of adequate disinfectants, and disinfection of infected rooms, &c., after convalescence. As I have already mentioned, there was no fatal case of Infectious Disease.

SCARLATINA.

Eight cases were notified, all, I believe, of a mild type.

DIPHTHERIA.

One case, presumably a mild attack, as the person was out of doors within a week of his seizure.

ENTERIC OR TYPHOID.

One case, caused, I believe, by the defective sanitary arrangements of the house.

ERYSIPELAS.

There were 6 cases notified.

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH

have been practically absent, but there was a mild epidemic of Chicken Pox during the spring and early summer.

DIARRHŒA.

The notification of Diarrhœa, as suggested by the Local Government Board, was adopted for the months of September and October. During that period 6 cases only were notified, some of the notifications proving decidedly useful in that, through them, various insanitary premises were discovered. In November and December, however, there was a serious epidemic of this disorder, about the time of the floods, of which I will treat further when discussing the latter question.

DAIRIES, BAKEHOUSES, &c.

The Dairies, Bakehouses and Slaughterhouses have been visited periodically, and are, generally, in good order and well kept.

THE FLOODS.

The flooding of the Thames in November and December, besides playing havoc with property, was the precursor of a very serious epidemic of Diarrhœa, many cases being of a severe type. A Public Caution was issued to the inhabitants calling their attention to the probable pollution of well-water with sewage matter, and warning them of the danger of drinking such water. At the subsidence of the floods the fire-engine was of much service in pumping water from basements and cellars ; and, under the supervision of the Inspector of Nuisances, a staff of men made a house to house visitation of those portions of the district which had been inundated, the flooded premises being thoroughly disinfected. This practically stopped the epidemic, which has been attributed to the pollution of drinking water supplied by the Water Company, but which, in my opinion, was generally due to the presence, in the

flood water, of sewage matter from cesspools, many of which, in this district, were overflowing at the time. And the epidemic was certainly most severe in that portion of the district which was inundated.

INSPECTIONS.

I have reported, every month, details of inspections of the district, the results of which are shown in the accompanying report of the Inspector of Nuisances.

In conclusion, I would remind you that very shortly the system of main drainage will come into vogue, and I would urge your Authority to adopt regulations for ensuring, not only the proper connection of drains to sewers, but also that the drains are adequately fitted for connection. For I am certain that the sanitary arrangements of many of the older houses will require radical alteration before they can be connected with safety.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. J. KNOX,

M.A., M.B. & B.C. Cantab.,

M.R.C.S. & L.R.C.P.

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1894.

Number of Premises inspected under Section 92 of the Public Health Act, 1875	...	173
Number of Nuisances discovered	...	201
Number of Nuisances remedied without being reported to the Sanitary Authority...		39
Number of Nuisances reported to the Sanitary Authority	...	150
Number of Nuisances remedied after report		51
Number of Nuisances reported but yet remaining to be remedied on December 31st, 1894	...	111
Number of Preliminary Notices served by the Inspector of Nuisances for the abate- ment of Nuisances	...	29
Number of Houses disinfected in the district that had been subject to flooding during during the high floods in November last (1894)	...	177

(Signed) JNO. STEVENSON,

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

January 31st, 1895.

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS,
 Coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1894, in the Urban
B Sanitary District of EAST MOLESEY, classified according to Diseases and Ages.

NAME OF LOCALITY.	Population at all Ages.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5	New Cases of Sickness coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.										Number of such Cases removed from their Homes for Treatment in Isolation Hospital.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																													
	Census 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1894.			Fevers.										Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Diarrhoea.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		
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East Molesey ..	4666	5111	116	Under 5 5 upwds	3	5	1

State here whether " Notification of Infectious Disease " is compulsory in the District. — Yes. Since when ? — January, 1890.